

Mission San Jose Y San Miguel De Aguayo, Chapel
6539 San Jose Road
San Antonio
Bexar County
Texas

HABS No. TX-333 B

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TEX
15-SANT.V,
SF-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MISSION SAN JOSE Y SAN MIGUEL
DE AGUAYO, CHAPEL

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HABS No. TX-333 B

Location: 6539 San Jose Road, San Antonio,
Bexar County, Texas.

Present Owner: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio.

Present Use: Chapel; public museum.

Significance: The small chapel, which adjoins the church on the south side, is a typical component of a Spanish mission complex built during the period of Texas frontier.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1768, built as a part of the church building.
2. Original and subsequent owners: See History section of Mission San Jose y San Miguel de Aguayo, HABS No. TX-333.

B. Historical Context: See Mission San Jose y San Miguel de Aguayo, HABS No. TX-333.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The chapel is a one-story rectangular structure with a domed roof and is contemporary in design with the adjoining church.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Approximately twenty-four feet wide and sixty feet long.
2. Foundation: Rubble stone and lime mortar.
3. Wall: Rubble stone and lime mortar reinforced with buttresses, molded weatherings. The walls were carried above the roof line to form a ramped parapet.
4. Structural system: Load-bearing walls; domical roof vaults.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There is one exterior doorway located in the east end wall of the chapel. This doorway is treated in the characteristic manner as a rectangular panel encompassing a round-arch opening. The opening is flanked by the usual pilasters with molded bases and imposts. The arch frame is wide and covered with raised foliate patterns. Across the top is located a classical molded cornice-entablature. The double wood doors are paneled in the "colonial" style.
- b. Windows: The famous "Rose Window" is located in the south facade. It is a carved panel of classical moldings with raised foliate embellishment. The window is a wood casement, not original.

A second window opening is located in the upper part of the west wall.

6. Roof: The roof is composed of three elliptical saucer domes on squinches.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: One rectangular room of three bays with a chancel in the west bay.
2. Flooring: Brick and tile, not original. The chancel is raised and the floor is of boards.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered and whitewashed.
4. Doorways and doors: The doorway to the church is in the center of the north wall and has a shell-scalloped arched opening with splayed jambs. The double wood doors have panels in the "colonial" style.
5. Trim: Ornate carved pilaster capitals; simple wood altar rail.
6. Lighting: Bare electric bulbs.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Oriented east to west; adjoins the church.

Prepared by: John C. Garner, Jr.
Director, Bexar County Architecture
Survey
1969

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The San Antonio project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in the summer of 1968, and was made possible with funds from HABS and two sponsors, the Bexar County Historical Survey Committee and the San Antonio Conservation Society. Under the direction of James Massey, Chief of HABS, the project was carried out by Wesley I. Shank (Iowa State University), project supervisor, and by student assistant architects, Charles W. Barrow (University of Texas); Les Beilinson (University of Miami); William H. Edwards (University of Illinois); and Larry D. Hermesen (Iowa State University) at the HABS field office in the former Ursuline Academy buildings, San Antonio. John C. Garner, Jr., Director of Bexar County Architecture Survey, did the outside work on the written documentaries. Susan McCown, a HABS staff historian in the Washington, D.C. office, edited the written data in 1983, for preparation of transmittal to the Library of Congress. Dewey G. Mears of Austin, Texas took the documentary photographs of the San Antonio structures.

The 1983 photographs of the chapel are part of the 1983 San Antonio Missions project, which was sponsored by the Southwest Regional Office, National Park Service. John Lowe of the HABS/HAER Office, Washington, D.C., took the photographs.

ADDENDUM TO:
MISSION SAN JOSE Y SAN MIGUEL DE AGUAYO, CHAPEL
(San Jose Mission, Chapel)
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
6539 San Jose Road
San Antonio
Bexar County
Texas

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